

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00263 151403Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

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R 151330Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 736

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CA

SUBJ: STRIKE AND ELECTION IN QUEBEC

1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION BIENVENUE TODAY TOLD ME THAT PRO-TESTANT TEACHERS STRIKE WILL PROBABLY BE SETTLED BY OCTOBER 18. LAST SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WERE RESOLVED OVER PAST 72 HOURS IN MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND TEACHERS UNION PRESIDENT PEACOCK IN MONTREAL.

2. COMMENTING ON VIRTUALLY CERTAIN FALL ELECTION, BIENVENUE CONFIRMED THAT GOLLMY ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR QUEBEC IN 1977 WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE NEED TO RAISE TAXES WERE THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN PREMIER BOURASSAS DECISION TO HOLD AN ELECTION NEXT MONTH. GROWING STRENGTH AND THE PRESENT DIS-ARRAY OF THIRD PARTIES ALSO WEIGHED IN FAVOR OF EARLY ELECTION.

3. BIENVEUE WHO REPRESENTS MONTREAL RIDING OF CREMAZIER, ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ANGLOPHONE DISGRUNTLEMENT IS NOW BEING TAKEN AS SERIOUS PROBLEM BY LIBERAL LEADERS. FEARS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF TRADITIONALLY LIBERAL ANGLO VOTERS WILL VOTE UNION NATIONALE OR FOR INDEPENDENT ANGLOPHONE CANDIDATES. RESULT IN LOSSES COULD DANGEROUSLY REDUCE LIBERAL MAJORITY.

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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00263 151403Z

4. MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT SETTLEMENT OF ENGLISH

PROTEST WAS TEACHERS DISPUTE WOULD REDUCE ANGLOPHONE ANIMOSITY
TOWARDS GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, AS CANDIDATE IN RIDING IN WHICH
CONTAINS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF ANGRY "ETHNICS" AS WELL AS MANY
PEQUISTE, BIENVENUE IS OWRRIED. HE CAN ILL AFFORD LOSS OF
NEO-CANADIAN VOTE AS HE DEFEATED JACQUES PARIZAEU OF PQ BY
LESS THAN 1400 VOTES IN 1973.
MCNAMARA

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